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Country Clubs

Tennis Star Nets Rare Banana Tree

By Carolyn Bell Hughes

CPYRGHT

ONE OF the first tennis matches of the season took place on a brisk morning this week at Army and Navy Country Club with the Chevy Chase ladies coming off winners.

Mrs. Donald Dunford of Army and Navy and Mrs. Robert Myers lost to Mrs. Robert Amory and Mrs. Hugh Rowan of Chevy Chase. However, there will more than likely be a return match.

Mrs. Dunford, who makes her home in Aurora Hills, spends most of her waking hours on the tennis court . . . or in her Hawaii-inspired garden. "I've finally located a banana tree," she said and am told that if I'll bring the tree in for the winter, I should have no trouble . . . at any rate I'm going to try." She's already gained fame of sorts for her hibiscus blooms.

An Army wife, Mrs. Dunford has played on courts in far parts of the world and has copied tennis titles in both Honolulu and Texas.

The tennis season, which has opened without much co-operation from the weatherman, normally lasts "Til the snow flies," says pro Harry Ahrendts who is readying his A and N courts for a stiff season. Col. Leiby Stanley and Gordon Hodgson are the "early" champs at this club so far. Peggy Dallah is handling the "ladies" events.

CHEVY CHASE: There are 14 courts at Chevy Chase Club—three hard courts—and they all go at full tilt all summer long, says Carl Beall, assistant pro, who will be celebrating his 10th year at Chevy Chase this year, while pro Don Watson will be going into his 25th year.

CONGRESSIONAL OPEN HOUSE: Tennis-wise, Congressional Country Club too gets officially onto the courts on May 18th with an open house and a round of tournaments, followed by a buffet lunch.

What promises to be humor, of sorts, will be the exhibition match to be arranged between Mr. and Mrs. Walter King Jr., and Mr. and Mrs. Robert McKinsey. Both men are top players . . . but their wives?

Mr. and Mrs. John Southmaid—whose daughter Carol is number one young player in the city—are in charge of the tennis open house at the club, with Mrs. Henry Hubbard, whose daughter, Patricia, was one of last season's champs.

Juniors at Congressional should give Chevy Chase a run for their racquets this season for they number, among their group, such sensational players as Frank Murphy Jr., and his sister Betty Ann.

Frank Danilowicz, tennis pro who is back at Congressional after a long visit in the hospital will be on hand for the open house.